

Hypothermia claims Native man; police fail to respond

by **Jim Benedetto**

Tundra Times Editor

Anchorage police are still investigating a January 23 incident in which police failed to respond to follow up calls reporting a Native man, Francis Trader, in need of assistance. Trader died of a heart attack at the Alaska Native Medical Center.

In the nine-hour period preceding Trader's death, Anchorage police were reportedly called at least four times concerning Trader. Police did respond around 7:30 a.m. and suggested to Trader that he seek shelter at the Brother Francis Shelter, which was at that time closed. The shelter,

(Continued on Page Eleven)

Trader death

(Continued from Page One)

located across from Bean's Cafe, closes when the cafe opens in the morning.

But a state employee, Samir Obeidi, said he telephoned police that Trader was apparently in need of aid shortly before 1 a.m.

Pat Iverson, another state worker, placed the call at 7:30 a.m. that police responded to. Patrolman Ron Brechon reported that he and another patrolman, John Chambers, got Trader to his feet and left him walking in the direction of the shelter.

But an employee of a nearby service station who had noted police cars in the alley earlier that morning was in-

formed by a customer more than an hour later that Trader was still in the alley. He called police again at about 9 a.m. and was told that the Salvation Army Community Service Patrol was on its way, even though police knew the service did not operate between 2 and 10 a.m. due to budget cuts.

Iverson again called police at about 9:30 a.m. and asked for a paramedic. No ambulance or patrol car was dispatched. After 10 a.m. Iverson called the Community Service Patrol, which brought Trader to the hospital.

Trader died that afternoon. He was admitted to the hospital with a body temperature of 82 degrees, his blood pressure and pulse nearly undetectable.